

Reasons why the Indiana Poison Center has stopped offering Mr. Yuk stickers

The following information is provided to help you understand the reasons for the discontinuation of Mr. Yuk stickers.

Why Has Mr. Yuk left Indiana?

- The Indiana Poison Center's decision to discontinue the use of Mr. Yuk warning stickers was based on available research demonstrating that the Mr. Yuk sticker is not a strong method to warn children away from possible poisons. Instead of acting as a deterrent that discourages children from touching a potentially poisonous product, research has found that children can be attracted to the stickers which feature a bright green, frowning face.
- Mr. Yuk stickers are only an effective deterrent if parents and caregivers *regularly* reinforce poison prevention messages with their children.
- The effectiveness of the Mr. Yuk sticker as a deterrent depends on the personality and developmental level of each child, which may make him or her more inclined to touch or eat potentially poisonous items.
- The responsibility for poison prevention ultimately lies with adults. Potentially poisonous products do not always carry the Mr. Yuk sticker that children have been taught to look out for. Warning stickers should not be used as a primary method for poison prevention.
- Children do the unexpected and even children who are taught the meaning of Mr. Yuk may at some point forget that message.

Key Poison Prevention Tips

More important than using warning stickers, the IPC recommends that all parents and caregivers of young children (those under the age of six) take the following steps to make their homes safer from poisons:

1. Buy products in child resistant containers whenever possible.
2. Lock up all potentially poisonous household products and medicines and keep them out of sight and reach of children.
3. Always read labels and directions before using household products and medicine.
4. Keep all household products and medicines in their original containers with original labels.
5. Teach young children to always check with an adult before they eat, drink, smell or touch anything they are not sure of.
6. If called away while using a product (e.g. to answer the phone or go to the door) take the product or the child with you. **Never leave children unattended with a potentially poisonous product.**